

**ALA Annual Meeting 2006
ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries
Report of Recent Activities at the National Agricultural Library**

Cataloging

In response to Library of Congress' new series authority/tracing policies, NAL will continue to follow Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) policy and practice for series. NAL encourages PCC to study the issue. NAL is in the process of seeking ways to streamline and simplify our series practice. NAL is committed to the cooperative PCC process and will apply the policies promulgated in that forum.

While we do have concerns about not automatically accepting LC copy, the impact of the LC series authority decision on NAL will be considerably less than for most research libraries, because a much smaller percentage of our receipts have LC cataloging copy.

NAL has begun participating in the Library of Congress' Cataloging in Publication program. NAL is cataloging electronically submitted manuscripts in the area of agriculture. NAL will continue to apply series tracings as necessary under PCC rules to those items.

Electronic Repositories

A pilot electronic repository – National Agricultural Library Digital Repository (NAL DR) - has been released using the ZYLAB application and the AGRICOLA index. Initial items include the Yearbook of Agriculture and publications selected by NAL's Rural Information Center.

Concurrently, we recently completed an initial technical and business plan for a larger repository – Electronic Repository of Agricultural Literature (ERAL) which is intended to become an initial component of the National Digital Library for Agriculture (NDLA). NAL will use the D-Space application to store post peer reviewed manuscripts authored by USDA. The primary search and access to the repository will be through the AGRICOLA Index. The initial goal is to capture all of the 7,000+ articles authored annually by USDA/Agricultural Research Service (ARS) researchers as well as other digital objects such as presentations, data sets, and lab notebooks in ERAL.

AGRICOLA Index

NAL has initiated a process of re-scoping the AGRICOLA Index with a goal to produce a product that occupies a unique niche, is financially sustainable, and supports the future operations of the Library. A key role of the revised AGRICOLA Index will be to serve as the search and access point to an NAL's ERAL. The goal is to determine the final mix of articles in the Index this summer. Our new focus will be on works published by USDA, authored by USDA scientists, sponsored by USDA, or created by AgNIC partner institutions. The index will also have titles that support the activities of our Information Centers as well as titles that are now unique to the Index, grey literature, and a basic core of agricultural titles. NAL is actively soliciting comments about re-scoping from AGRICOLA users. Comments can be e-mailed to future@nal.usda.gov.

Integrated Systems

NAL completed the upgrade to Voyager version 5.0 in May 2006. All catalog and indexing records are now stored in UNICODE. The implementation of the Meridian Electronic Rights Management module continues. After reviewing the version 1.0 release of Meridian and discussions with other users, NAL has chosen to postpone implementation until version 1.5 of Meridian is released and tested. In the interim, the necessary preparatory work on the bibliographic records, holding records, and licensing data is continuing. While no firm roll-out date has been set, we are targeting the late summer for full operations.

Budget

The President's Budget proposal contained a significant increase for NAL - \$3.9 million. The legislative process has not been completed and it is unknown what Congress will in fact appropriate for FY2007. In addition, an internal 1% levy may be assessed across the Agricultural Research Service to fund post-Katrina expenses addressing damages to the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans in FY2006. Whether that additional levy will occur is dependent upon the still uncompleted FY2006 supplemental appropriation currently pending in Congress.

Personnel

Effective July 24, 2006, Karl Debus-López will be the Head of the Acquisitions & Serials Branch. Karl leaves his previous post as the AUL for Technical Services at Georgetown to join NAL.